

**METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR ASSEMBLING  
GAS TURBINE ENGINES**

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A method for assembling a fan platform for a gas turbine engine is provided. The method includes determining an area of vulnerability to impact and erosion damage across the platform, forming a sheet of cladding metal to substantially conform to a contour of the identified area of vulnerability of the platform, and bonding the cladding metal to the identified area of vulnerability.